



# The New STAAR Report Card

## Presentation Script

**Slide 2:** Tests are a part of life. Anyone who has spent much time with children knows that no one test can tell us everything we need to know about a child. But tests can still be quite helpful.

**Slide 3:** The STAAR test is just one of several sign posts used to help navigate students to a successful future. But it's an important one because it tells us how well students have learned grade level knowledge and skills in reading and math.

**Slide 4:** The Texas Education Agency publishes student report cards every year to provide STAAR results to parents, teachers and students.

**Slide 5:** This year, there is a new STAAR report card, equipped with multiple tools to help parents and teachers improve student learning. Over the next few minutes, this video will walk you through the redesigned STAAR report card.

**Slide 6:** The new report card is designed to be easier to read and more accurate, to report growth over time, and to provide resources for parents to dive deeper.

**Slide 7:** One of the more significant changes is the new performance level labels. Students can achieve one of four different performance levels on the STAAR. These performance labels describe how well students have learned grade level content.

**Slide 8:** The underlying level of performance hasn't changed, but the old, somewhat confusing labels have been replaced on the new STAAR report card with terms that are hopefully easier to understand.

**Slide 9:** For example, the old term "Level III: Advanced" has been replaced by the term "Masters Grade Level". Students who master grade level have learned the knowledge and skills of that grade so well that they can use what they learned in unfamiliar settings outside the classroom. But this doesn't mean they are so advanced they should just skip a grade level, which was a source of confusion with the old term. Elementary and middle school students who master grade level are very well prepared for success in the next academic year. And we know from research that students who reach this level of mastery by the end of high school have a better than 75% chance of passing freshman level college courses.

**Slide 10:** The performance level that was previously called “Final Level II” is associated with students who are on grade level. Students who reach this level of performance by the end of high school have been shown through research to have a better than 60% chance of passing freshman level college courses. However, this performance level was only shared with school officials, and wasn’t included in the STAAR Report Card for parents. This has caused a great deal of confusion. As a result, the old term “Final Level II: Postsecondary Ready” has been replaced by the term “Meets Grade Level.” Students performing at this level are likely to succeed in the next school year.

**Slide 11:** Several years ago, a phase-in plan was developed for the STAAR test, with what was to be a temporary performance level called Satisfactory. Students who reach this level of performance are not yet on grade level, but they are relatively close. This has unfortunately caused a good deal of confusion. As a result, the old term “Phase In Level II: Satisfactory” has been replaced by the new term of “Approaches Grade Level.” This is used for students who know a good amount of their course content, so we can think of this as passing, but these students will need additional academic support in the next year. And with our support, they can improve over time.

**Slide 12:** The old term “Level I: Unsatisfactory” has been replaced by the term “Did Not Meet Grade Level”. This is used for students who have not demonstrated a sufficient understanding of grade level content and who will need significant remediation in the coming year.

**Slide 13:** The new STAAR Report Card features these new labels for performance. And the report’s new layout makes it clear which of the four performance levels a child reaches.

**Slide 14:** The STAAR Report Card has other changes, too. The report shows how a student's score compares to other students who took the same test. The report also shows how many questions a student answered correctly in each major category of content.

**Slide 15:** Since so much of what we do with our children in school is intended to support their academic growth, a new section of the report card is completely devoted to highlighting student growth. There is a graph that shows where the student was last year, and where they are this year. Students are expected to learn more every year they are in school, so the performance levels for this grade level (on the right side of the graph) are higher than last year’s grade (on the left). Even so, parents can see how well the student performed in both years. And with that, they can see whether their student

learned at least a year's worth of content in the last academic year, no matter what level the student started the year at.

**Slide 16:** The report card also features student Lexile scores. Lexile is designed to measure a student's reading level. The higher the Lexile level, the more complicated the book a child can read.

**Slide 17:** Parents and teachers can see how a child has grown in reading skills throughout the years, by seeing changes in a child's Lexile level.

**Slide 18:** To improve the sense of perspective, they can also see where a specific child's reading level is in relation to most children at the same grade level.

**Slide 19:** Of course, it's not important to know how well a child is doing unless we know what to do about it. So we've added features to the report card to help parents support their children to become stronger readers regardless of their current Lexile.

**Slide 20:** For example, the report card includes grade-level texts for a child to read depending upon the child's Lexile.

**Slide 21:** The report card also features specific strategies, tips, and free on-line resources to help support a child's ability to read and write. These are organized to match the same major content categories found on the STAAR test, which are the same knowledge and skills covered in class.

**Slide 22:** There is also help in math. The report card provides parents activities they can do at home or while out and about with their children that reinforce the same math skills that are taught in our classrooms and that are covered on the STAAR test.

**Slide 23:** For students in high school, the report card features advice to help parents and their children plan to get the most out of high school, as the student prepares for college or begins to explore specific career opportunities.

**Slide 24:** And we know it's important to help make sure parents and teachers are on the same page. So one section of the report card is devoted to helping parents make the most of time spent in any parent-teacher conferences, including suggesting sample questions for parents to ask of their teachers.

**Slide 25:** Speaking of website, while the report card is available on paper, there is also a new suite of online tools to allow for an even deeper dive.

**Slide 26:** Parents can see actual test questions their child answered, how students across the state did on those same questions, and the grade-level specific knowledge or skill that each question is designed to address.

**Slide 27:** These online resources will be available for parents, educators and community members.

**Slide 28:** The new versions of the STAAR Report Card will be made available in June and July this year. Online tools will be available in mid June. Next year, the report cards will come out earlier.

**Slide 29:** We hope the new report card and online tools will be far more useful, empowering parents and teachers to use STAAR results to help our students like never before. [Learn more at tea.texas.gov/studentreport](https://tea.texas.gov/studentreport).